

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence School Committee

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

December 11, 2012

Open Session

Mr. Monteiro, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Members present: Elizabeth Clupny, Timothy Conley, Anthony Ferreira, Richard Pimental. Also present: Dr. John V. DeGoes, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Robert Silva, Esq. and Andrew Thomas, Esq.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag & Moment of Silence observed.

Student/Staff Recognition

Christmas and Welcome Greetings – Performance by High School Chorus students.

Student Liaison Report – Joshua Concepcion presented a report on high school activities and events.

Report on City of East Providence Budget Commission

Dr. DeGoes reported that the Budget Commission conducted a review of their experiences over the past year for all newly elected officials, which was very helpful to everyone. Budget Commission outlined provisions and regulations governing the Budget Commission and what they have been selected to do by law.

Public Comment I – Fred Rybka, 9 Cousins Avenue, Riverside asked where we stand and what is being done about possibly closing an elementary school; it has been discussed at Budget Commission meetings.

Dr. DeGoes stated that he has been working on recommendations to be presented to the School Committee at the January meeting for consideration to close a school: what does that involve; new busing routes and the costs involved; how to accommodate the students of the school being closed; redistricting part or all of the school district.

If the School Committee accepts recommendation(s) at January meeting, two public hearings (within six months prior to closing) must be held prior to February; official action by the School Committee must take place six months before. Dr. DeGoes will have a proposal for School Committee members to approve in January; public hearings for parents of the school affected will be given opportunity for input. When this takes place, the School Committee would vote to close the school.

Mr. Rybka – concerned that the kids go to school together and form

bonds, and to spread them all around is an outrage; budget situation is dire, but to do this for money? Dr. DeGoes assured that he is trying to take that into consideration.

Mr. Conley inquired who is on the committee working on this and does it have a formal name?

Dr. DeGoes explained that he asked principals, teachers, Transportation Supervisor, and a liaison to the Budget Commission in order to obtain budget information.

Councilwoman Chrissy Rossi, City Council Liaison, inquired about the last day of work for Dr. DeGoes; he responded that the 90 days he is allowed by Retirement Board would run out somewhere around January 24th.

Mr. Rossi stated that the budget was \$4 million short from last year; where were the cuts made to accommodate that.

Dr. DeGoes thought that some have to do with deficit reduction; the city took money back; they have the deficit, not the schools. Mrs. Rossi asked if labor cuts were part of the budget, were they incorporated before and what is the time frame for completion of negotiations; and contemplating closing school(s)

Dr. DeGoes was not sure.

Izilda Teves, Orlo Avenue School, complained that her child's teacher was out on a professional day and there was no substitute teacher placed in Grade 2, so students were sent to a Kindergarten room with

a packet of work; the teacher has six days of professional development; if no sub, the kids will lose out; she got two different versions of the procedures from the Principal and the H/R Department.

Dr. DeGoes advised that attempts were made to get a sub, but sometimes if needs are excessive, we might not be able to get one because there are not enough subs; this is a situation no one wants or expects but inevitably it happens in every district. He has been in education for 47 years and there have always been classes not covered; we make every attempt to get a sub, but can't guarantee that if a teacher is absent.

Mrs. Teves stated there were 30 kids in one room; what can the teacher do with all those kids; the limit is not more than 25; if no sub and the kids are divided, the teacher paid \$20+ per kid (\$81.00) for kids to sit in corner in their classroom. She felt there should be a back-up plan for kids not to lose education; something needs to get done; Principal said it is out of her hands.

Dr. DeGoes stated that he does not endorse this or like it, but he does not agree that children were left alone; he will work with the Principal to try to find other choices and will be happy to set up a meeting; he was not sure what else could be done.

Interim Superintendent's Report

Personnel Report on Retirements/Resignations/Leaves of Absence –

Presented by Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk:

RESIGNATIONS

Elizabeth Salzillo Curriculum Coordinator-Admin-Effective 11/30/2012

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Mary-Ann Duval Special Ed/Resource Teacher-RMS-Effective
11/24/2012**

**Jessica Pasquarelli Assistant Swim Coach-EPHS-Effective
2012/2013 SY**

**Joanne Tortolani Resource Teacher-Francis- Remainder of
2012/2013 School Year**

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

**Loriann Nold Reading Teacher-Orlo-Approximately 01/09/2013-13
weeks**

**Motion to approve by Mr. Pimental, seconded by Mr. Conley. Vote
5-0.**

**Preparation for January Meeting - School Closings –addressed
above.**

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes - Minutes of 11/13/12 tabled; minutes of 12/3/12

meeting approved; Motion by Mr. Pimental, Seconded by Ms. Clupny.
Vote 5-0.

Finance Report – Dr. DeGoes reported that a balanced budget for FY 11-12 is expected; year ended with revenues received totaling \$75,617,286 and expenditures 95.78% spent at \$75,523,830; 4% balance.

Mr. Conley inquired about the Transportation line being over spent even with cuts and was concerned about where special education expenses were defined. Dr. DeGoes will request additional information from the Department Directors in order to respond to the questions.

Action Items

Personnel Appointments

APPOINTMENTS

Joanne Tortolani Evaluation Team Leader-District-Effective
12/03/2012

Karen Marotto 2/5 Special Ed Teacher-EPHS-Effective 12/04/2012

Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote
5-0.

Requisitions – Bill List

Warrant #

1273	11/14/12	\$	45.71
1274	11/29/12	\$	4,077.50
1275	12/7/12	\$	102.84
1276	12/7/12	\$	1,670,106.24
1277	12/7/12	\$	1,196,277.83
1278	12/7/12	\$	411,344.11
1279	12/10/12	\$	93,998.55
1280	12/10/12	\$	300,825.71

Motion to approve by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.

Requests for Home Schooling – Two requests approved; motion by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.

Reaffirmation of School Committee Rights under RIGL 16-2-9(g) to Engage Independent Legal Counsel

Motion to approve by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pimental to approve. Vote 5-0.

Old Business- None

New Business

PTA Reports: Heather Foley, parent at Orlo Avenue School, reported

on events at the school: bingo, holiday fundraiser, P Bruins, Relay for Life Team.

School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2013 – Mr. Pimental asked about holding the executive session meetings before the open meeting; Mr. Monteiro asked to bring this up at another meeting for discussion

Schedule approved as presented by Mr. Pimental, seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment II

Fred Rybka spoke about the playground and parking lot at Orlo Avenue School; custodian was upset about the relocation of a dumpster and would be filing a grievance if trash had to be brought across the street; this should not be the concern of parents. Ongoing problems with dust on rafters in cafeteria; concern about the amount of money spent on parking lot; the dumpster cannot be near basketball area. Ongoing issues with cleanliness of the building.

Dr. DeGoes stated he had not received any calls and this was the first time he heard about it; he was not sure the principal was informed of this.

Izilda Teves, parent at Orlo Avenue School, stated the parents had to clean the gym before setting up for an event; she showed Ms. Gibbs;

work still not done; custodian did not take out trash; 100 volunteers worked on a weekend for painting and cleaning up; now the school's responsibility to maintain it.

Heather Foley – 101 N. Broadway, volunteers pay taxes which fund custodians and workers to keep schools clean; she does not want kids breathing in dust while at lunch or in gym; When they discover things and go through channels with the principal, it is not taken care of; parents are not asking for anything but to keep the school reasonably clean; if Orlo is this bad, she could only imagine what is happening at other schools.

Mr. Ferreira stated that approximately \$35,000 of work was done at Orlo with help from the city for the parking lot and he will do everything he can to stop trucks from driving on it just to get to a dumpster; the way things are cannot continue; we have to improve our buildings through every day maintenance.

Announcements

Joel Monteiro – reminder of fundraiser at Chill's tonight for Middle School sports fundraising.

Mr. Ferreira stated that he would be donating his\$3500 stipend as a School Committee member back to the city or schools.

Motion by Mr. Pimental to convene in Executive Session for purposes

of discussing: Personnel - R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (1); Collective Bargaining R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2); Litigation/Pending Litigation -R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a) (2), seconded by Ms. Clupny. Vote 5-0.

Return to Public Session - Mr. Pimental, seconded by Mr. Conley, voted to return to public session and to seal the minutes of the executive session. Vote 5-0.

Report Executive Session Votes – No votes taken.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Clupny, seconded by Mr. Pimental. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Iannelli, Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Clupny, Clerk of the Committee